UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/45/36/Add.1
10 July 1990

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-fifth session

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND UTILIZATION OF NEW AND RENEWABLE SOURCES OF ENERGY

Programme budget implications arising from the report of the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy 1/

Implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy

1. The implementation of resolutions 1 (V) and 2 (V), adopted by the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy and contained in the annex to its report to the General Assembly at its forty-fifth session, 1/ would give rise to programme budget implications. These are outlined in the present addendum. The requests contained in the conclusions and recommendations (para. 88) will be implemented subject to availability of resources.

I. Programme budget implications of resolution 1 (V)

A. Requests contained in the resolution

2. Under the terms of paragraph 1, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy decided to include in the provisional agenda for its sixth session the themes:

(a) Contribution of new and renewable sources of energy to decentralized energy systems and to specific multi-purpose medium- to large-scale applications;

(b) Promotion of rapid and effective transfer of technology in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to developing countries, including the role of joint ventures in the framework of North-South and South-South co-operation, in the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action, with a

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view to taking due account of the potential contribution of those sources to sustainable and environmentally sound development in all countries.

3. In paragraph 4, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to prepare an analytical report for the Committee at its sixth session on an in-depth study of the current stage of achievements in States regarding the selected themes.

4. In paragraph 5, the Committee also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the sixth session of the Committee a report on the activities of the United Nations system in that regard.

5. In paragraph 6, the Committee further requests the Secretary-General to prepare a comprehensive and analytical study to be considered by the Committee at its sixth session, with a view to providing a significant contribution to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, through the Preparatory Committee for the Conference, including recommendations for action to promote rapid and effective transfer of technology in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to developing countries.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

6. The requests contained in paragraphs 1, 4, 5 and 6 of resolution 1 (V) are related to subprogramme 2, Development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, of the programme Survey of the energy situation in its international context, detailed in chapter 11 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 2/ revised by A/41/6 and modified by A/41/38, and the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 3/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

7. In-depth studies and analytical reports on each of the selected themes identified in paragraph 1 (a) and (b) would be prepared by the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs for submission to the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy at its sixth session.

8. In addition, a comprehensive and analytical study on promotion of rapid and effective transfer of technology in the field of utilization of new and renewable sources of energy to developing countries, taking due account of their environmental dimension (para. 1 (b)) would be prepared by the Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Co-operation.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1990-1991

9. Section 6 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, under the programme Survey of the energy situation in its international context,

programme element 2.1, Support to the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, includes a report to the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy on subjects to be determined by the Committee at its fifth meeting in 1990. The subjects would be those contained in paragraphs 4 and 5 of the resolution. Under section 5A, the preparation of the report requested in paragraph 6 would be part of the support for the implementation of programmes relating to the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy.

E. Additional requirements at full costs

10. At the time of the preparation of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, the nature and scope of the subjects to be selected was not known. Provisions were made for the preparation of a report on two themes of limited scope to be submitted to the Committee at its sixth session. The amount of $6,100 for consultancy fees was to assist in addressing some of those issues on a limited scale. However, given the number of themes identified in the resolution and their wider scope, additional resources would be required to assist the Secretariat staff in the preparation of the reports.

11. For the first theme listed under paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution, consultancy services would be required to assist the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in two broad areas, namely, rural energy development and supply covering all energy sources and, secondly, rural development policies, problems and appropriate strategies.

12. Under the second theme listed in paragraph 1 (a) of the resolution, consultancy services would be required to assist the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in assessing the state of the art of a variety of new and renewable sources of energy technologies and their potential in multi-purpose, medium- to large-scale applications.

13. Under the theme of the role of joint ventures mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) of the resolution, consultancy services would be required to assist the Department of International Economic and Social Affairs in reviewing, analysing and evaluating joint ventures in new and renewable sources of energy in the context of North-South and South-South co-operation in the fulfilment of the goals and objectives of the Nairobi Programme of Action.

14. Under the subject of the promotion of rapid and effective transfer of technology mentioned in paragraph 1 (b) of the resolution, consultancy services would be required to assist the Development and International Economic Co-operation in reviewing and assessing factors bearing on the effective transfer of technology in the field of new and renewable sources of energy to developing countries, taking into account the environmental dimensions.

15. The total cost estimated for specialized expertise in the form of consultancy services for the studies and reports amounts to $80,000.

F. Potential for absorption

16. As indicated in paragraph 15 above, the activities to be undertaken in the draft resolution would require consultancy services totalling $80,000. Provisions have been made in section 6 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991, under programme element 2.1 of the subprogramme on new and renewable sources of energy, in the amount of $6,100 for consultancy services. An additional amount of $73,900 would thus be required.

G. Indication of additional resource requirements

17. Should the General Assembly adopt resolution 1 (V), it is estimated that additional resource requirements of $73,900 would have to be met, $10,000 under section 5A and $63,900 under section 6 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

H. Contingency fund

18. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that can exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its forty-fifth session.

19. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification. In the event, therefore, that resources are not available from the contingency fund, the report and study requested under the resolution would consequently have to be postponed.

II. Programme budget implications of resolution 2 (V)

A. Requests contained in the resolution

20. Under the terms of paragraph 1, the Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy decided to inscribe the item "Commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the adoption of the Nairobi Programme of Action for the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy" in the agenda of its sixth session, to be held in 1992.

21. Under paragraph 2, the Committee decided to convene an intergovernmental expert group in 1991, bearing in mind the principle of equitable geographical

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representation, to assess and review the progress of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action and to make concrete recommendations on all aspects of its implementation, including institutional aspects, with a view to assisting the Committee at its sixth session in the consideration of the above items and to take measures designed to speed up implementation of the concerted action envisaged in the Nariobi Programme of Action.

B. Relationship of the requests to the approved programme of work

22. The requests contained in paragraphs 1 and 2 of resolution 2 (V) relate to the programme Survey of the energy situation in its international context, in particular, subprogramme 2, Development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, to chapter 11 of the medium-term plan for the period 1984-1989, 2/ and to section 6 of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991. 3/

C. Activities by which the requests would be implemented

23. The Secretary-General would convene in 1991 an intergovernmental group consisting of 15 experts for five days at United Nations Headquarters. The experts would be entitled to payment of travel costs and subsistence allowances. It is assumed that the related conference services would be provided for, based on holding two meetings a day with interpretation in six languages.

24. To assist the Committee in its deliberations, a report would be prepared assessing and reviewing the progress of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action, with concrete recommendations on all aspects of its implementation, including measures to speed up fulfilment of the concerted action envisaged. The preparation of the report would require work to be undertaken at the country, subregional and regional levels leading to an overall global perspective, including an assessment of activities in the United Nations system as well as bilateral co-operation and multilateral assistance programmes.

25. In addition to communicating with all Member States and organizations within the United Nations system and appropriate donor and multilateral organizations, the Secretary-General would also communicate with non-governmental organizations to obtain their assessments. Missions would be undertaken in co-operation with the regional commissions to a number of Member States to assist in obtaining the necessary additional information required for the assessment.

26. Owing to the large number of topics covered under the Nairobi Programme of Action, consultancy services would be required to assist the Secretariat staff in areas of expertise not readily available for the analysis and assessment of the information collected from Member States, United Nations agencies and other multilateral and non-governmental organizations in the preparation of the analytical and integrated report to be submitted to the intergovernmental group of experts in 1991.

D. Modifications required in the proposed programme of work for 1990-1991

27. Under subprogramme 2, Development and utilization of new and renewable sources of energy, of the programme Survey of the energy situation in its international context, provisions would be made under programme element 2.1, Support to the Intergovernmental Committee on the Development and Utilization of New and Renewable Sources of Energy, for the substantive servicing of the proposed meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts not programmed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991.

28. The report on the assessment and review of the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action will become an additional output (iii) under programme element 2.1.

E. Additional requirements at full cost

29. The full cost of requirements to undertake the activities contained in section C above would be as follows:

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(a) Conference-servicing costs	
Pre-session documentation (80 pages, 2 documents: A, C, E, F, R, S)	79 400
Meeting services Interpretation (A, C, E, F, R, S)	41 800
In-session documentation (40 pages, 1 document: A, C, E, F, R, S)	39 000
Post-session documentation (40 pages, 1 document: A, C, E, F, R, S)	39 700
Total	199 900

(b) Other costs

In addition to conference-servicing costs, an amount of $47,600 would be required for travel and subsistence of 15 independent experts, $36,000 for travel of staff to collect data and $30,000 for consultants to assist in the analysis and assessment of implementation.

F. Potential for absorption

Conference-servicing costs

30. With regard to the estimates of conference-servicing costs indicated in paragraph 29 of section E above, those cost estimates are based on the theoretical assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 29 of the proposed programme budget and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity needs to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can only be determined in the light of the proposed calendar of conferences for 1990-1991. However, as indicated in paragraph 29.5 of the proposed programme budget, the 1990-1991 level of resources for temporary assistance for meetings was estimated on the basis of previous experience in order to accommodate not only meetings that are programmed, but also additional meetings. In other words, provision was made in the proposed programme budget not only for meetings known at the time of budget preparation, but also for meetings that would be authorized subsequently, provided that the number and distribution of meetings and conferences in the biennium 1990-1991 were consistent with the pattern of meetings in past years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 29 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 for the meeting of the intergovernmental group of experts.

G. Indication of additional resource requirements

31. Should the General Assembly adopt resolution 2 (V), it is estimated that additional resources would have to be met under section 6 of the programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 in the amount of $113,600. Of that amount, $47,600 would be required for daily subsistence allowance and travel of 15 experts and $36,000 would be required to finance nine trips in the regions to collect essential additional information and data. Two trips will be made to the African region, two to the Asia and Pacific region, one to Latin America, one to the western Asia region, two to the European region and one to North America. The balance of $30,000 would be used to cover consultancy services for six months to assist Secretariat staff by providing specialized expertise on the numerous topics covered under the Nairobi Programme of Action.

H. Contingency fund

32. No provision has been made in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 to undertake the activities listed in section E, for which it is estimated that an amount of $113,600 would be required.

33. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 and in effect starting with the biennium 1990-1991, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the

programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that can exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its forty-fifth session.

34. No activities are proposed for termination, deferral, curtailment or modification. In the event, therefore, that resources are not available from the contingency fund, the convening of the expert group and the related preparatory work would consequently have to be postponed.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 36 (A/45/36).

2/ Ibid., Thirty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/37/6 and Add.1-3).

3/ Ibid., Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6 (A/44/6/Rev.1).